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Message Text

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71
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 BIB-01 SAM-01 EURE-00 /055 W
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O 111828Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6752

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6167

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

1. DURING A CALL AFTERNOONAUGUST 11 ON INFORMATION MINISTER REGUERA, I RAISED WITH HIM RADIO LIBERTY. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THE BACKGROUND OF RADIO LIBERTY, ITS LONG PRESENSE IN SPAIN, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S COOPERATION WITH US OVER THE YEARS AND OUR DESIRE TO RENEW A LONG-TERM CONTRACT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION AT THE PALS SITE. I STRESSED TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE THAT WAS ATTACHED TO RADIO LIBERTY BY THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND ASKED HIM TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSID-ERATION TO OUR REQUEST TO EXTEND THE RADIO LIBERTY CONTRACT. I MENTIONED TO THE MINISTER THAT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME OF OUR PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO THE EXTENSION OF RADIO LIBERTY HAD ORIGINATED IN HIS MINISTRY, ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, BEFORE HE HAD ASSUMED CHARGE. I LEFT WITH HIM BOTH A SHORT MEMO ON RADIO LIBERTY BACKGROUND AND THEN THE MUCH LONGER QUESTION AND ANSWER FACT SHEET WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY BIB. I TOLD MINISTER REGUERA THAT I HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT WE HAD AGREED THAT WE WOULD TALK FURTHER ABOUT THE MATTER IN
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SAN SEBASTIAN IN AUGUST.

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2. REGUERA SAID THAT HE WAS ONLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM IN GENERAL TERMS BUT THAT HE WOULD STUDY WITH CARE THE PAPERS I HAD LEFT WITH HIM. HE INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIM, BUT HE DID KNOW THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DISCUSSED RADIO LIBERTY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AMONGST THE MINISTERS THIS MONTH. HE ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD TRY TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO US IN THIS MATTER.
STABLER

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